

MAIL ORDER FREAK

Jason ordered a clock from
a TV commercial

 Took three months for delivery
and it has taken him two years
to put the thing together

 Its chimes won't chime
 hands won't turn
 bird won't cuckoo

and he can't sue a P.O. Box

 This morning

 Debbie left for good
 wearing her drugstore watch
 and Jason still doesn't know
 what time it is

EMMAUS ON OLIVE STREET, 4/19/87

A siren blasts Sunday afternoon apart
one fire engine streaks past to a small
fire in a vacant lot

 then almost total quiet descends again
 peaceful and holy with the Resurrection
although a man in Hawaiian print shorts
barbecues on his patio and never thinks
what day it is

except he laid in extra packs of beer
now little girls in white dresses
cross the apartment complex carrying
baskets and pink stuffed rabbits with faces
that resemble pug dogs

one girl tells another, I found thirty
eggs in the Easter egg hunt
and the man remembers why he bought
the beer

but cannot recall why he bought the
lily

whose fragrance fills his apartment